

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04**

**Controlling Officer : Judiciary Administrator
Session No. : 11 File name : S-JA-e.doc**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
S-JA001	Oral	HO Chun-yan, Albert	80	Courts and Tribunals
S-JA002	Oral	NG Margaret	80	Support Services for Courts' Operation
S-JA003	Oral	NG Margaret	80	Support Services for Courts' Operation
S-JA004	Oral	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	80	Support Services for Courts' Operation
S-JA005	Oral	NG Margaret	80	Courts and Tribunals Support Services for Courts' Operation
S-JA006	Oral	HO Chun-yan, Albert	80	Support Services for Courts' Operation
S-JA007	Oral	NG Margaret	80	Support Services for Courts' Operation

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-JA001

Question Serial No.

Oral

Head: 80 Judiciary

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Courts and Tribunals

Controlling Officer: Judiciary Administrator

Director of Bureau: Judiciary Administrator

Question :

To relay to the Chief Justice the view that the results of the consultancy study on the appropriate system for the determination of judicial remuneration in Hong Kong be released to the public and to inform Members the outcome (Reply Serial No. JA 001).

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

The suggestion that the outcome of the consultancy study be made known to LegCo and the public has been conveyed to the Chief Justice.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Wilfred Tsui

Post Title _____ Judiciary Administrator

Date _____ 31.3.2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-JA002

Question Serial No.

Oral

Head: 80 Judiciary

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Support Services for Courts' Operation

Controlling Officer: Judiciary Administrator

Director of Bureau: Judiciary Administrator

Question :

Please advise whether the number of administrative staff in the Judiciary has increased over the past few years and provide figures to substantiate the answer.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply:

There were 1752 administrative support staff in the Judiciary on 1 April 1998. This number has been gradually decreased and will stand at 1670 on 1 April 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Wilfred Tsui

Post Title _____ Judiciary Administrator

Date _____ 31.3.2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-JA003

Question Serial No.

Oral

Head: 80 Judiciary

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Support Services for Courts' Operation

Controlling Officer: Judiciary Administrator

Director of Bureau: Judiciary Administrator

Question : Please provide the expenditure involved and cost savings from the use of information technology. (Reply Serial No. JA007)

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply:

The estimated expenditure on the specific plans set out in Question Serial No. 0854 (JA007) is \$1.76M and the estimated savings are \$2.55M per annum.

A breakdown of the estimated expenditure and savings in respect of the specific plans are shown below:

Action Plan	Estimated Expenditure	Estimated NAMS Savings per annum
1. Information kiosk	\$100,000	\$14,298
2. Electronic transmission of information on potential jurors	\$96,000	\$14,298
3. Provision of management information, reports and statistical data on-line	\$624,000	\$285,960
4. Electronic processing of application for trial transcripts	\$595,000	\$1,885,890
5. Standardising and computerising payment collection arrangement	\$347,000	\$345,960
Total	\$1,762,000	\$2,546,406

Signature _____

Name in block letters Wilfred Tsui

Post Title Judiciary Administrator

Date 31.3.2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-JA004

Question Serial No.

Oral

Head: 80 Judiciary

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Support Services for Courts' Operation

Controlling Officer: Judiciary Administrator

Director of Bureau: Judiciary Administrator

Question : Please provide the cost savings from outsourcing information technology support services.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

The savings from outsourcing information technology support services are \$1.65M per annum. The savings can be achieved because competitive rates for service charge are obtained through an open tendering process.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Wilfred Tsui

Post Title _____ Judiciary Administrator

Date _____ 31.3.2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-JA005

Question Serial No.

Oral

Head: 80 Judiciary

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Courts and Tribunals (2) Support Services for Courts' Operation

Controlling Officer: Judiciary Administrator

Director of Bureau: Judiciary Administrator

Question :

Please report to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services concerning the review on fee for transcripts and the legal status of translated judgments.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply:

The Judiciary Administrator will consult the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services on the fee for transcripts in June 2003 and report to the Panel on the legal status of translated judgments in April 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Wilfred Tsui

Post Title _____ Judiciary Administrator

Date _____ 31.3.2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-JA006

Question Serial No.

Oral

Head: 80 Judiciary

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Support Services for Courts' Operation

Controlling Officer: Judiciary Administrator

Director of Bureau: Judiciary Administrator

Question :

Please provide the percentage of judgments which are available in both Chinese and English.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply:

Out of the 18,372 judgments made by the courts from 1997 to 2002, 186 judgments have been translated and available in bilingual form, representing 1.01% of the total.

A breakdown by court level is as follows :

Number of Judgments issued from 1997 to 2002

	<u>Court</u>	
	Judgments made	
	Bilingual	
	Percentage	
Court of Final Appeal		374
		37
		9.89 %
Court of Appeal		7,818
*		86
		1.1 %
Court of First Instance		8,784
		43
		0.49 %
Other Courts/Tribunals		1,396
		20
		1.43 %
	Total	18,372
		186
		1.01 %

*The Court of Appeal dealt with 4,800 Right of Abode Appeal cases in 2002. All such cases were tried in Chinese, and the judgments were made in Chinese only.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Wilfred Tsui

Post Title Judiciary Administrator

Date 31.3.2003

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-JA007

Question Serial No.

Oral

Head: 80 Judiciary

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Support Services for Courts' Operation

Controlling Officer: Judiciary Administrator

Director of Bureau: Judiciary Administrator

Question :

Please provide the budget for translating judgments.

Asked by: Hon. NG Margaret

Reply:

The Judiciary has entered into an agreement with a well established publisher in legal reference and law reporting to publish a series of three casebooks containing Chinese translation of excerpts from leading and commonly cited judgments on Criminal Law, Land Law and Employment Law. The Judiciary is to suggest the excerpts to be included. The first casebook on Criminal Law will be published in mid-2003. The Judiciary will be buying from the publisher 200 copies of each casebook for reference by Judges and staff at a total cost of \$315,000.

Signature _____

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Post Title _____ Judiciary Administrator

Date _____ 31.3.2003